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Why Is America Neutral?

BY

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WHY IS AMERICA NEUTRAL?

BY

HYACINTHE RINGROSE.

Every American citizen fit to look the Statue of Liberty in the face is heartily with the Allies. How could it be otherwise? The keystone idea of the American Commonwealth is that all civil government should be of the people, by the people, and for the people. That idea was not inherited from the aboriginal inhabitants of the land, nor was it "Made in Germany," it comes from the English Motherland, and from the Republic of France, our historical ally.

As citizens of a free democracy our sympathies cannot fit in with military despotism, or with Kaiser William's superstition that kings rule by Divine Right.

The overwhelming sentiment of the American people for the Allies is not a product of the American Press, but a product of our free institutions.

GERMAN IDEALS OF GOVERNMENT OPPOSED TO OURS.

As President Eliot of Harvard said recently, "Germany has placed itself on record that it believes might makes right." It has violated the first principle of liberty and freedom. Again, "The notion that chivalry, progress, civilization, and love for fellow beings has advanced in the world has received a terrible setback from Germany." The patriotism of Dr. Eliot is beyond question, and his views are those of nine-tenths of the people of this Republic.

How could the United States be more than officially neutral when we remember that Germany is striving with all the power of its murderous howitzers to annihilate our sister Republic of France? Have we forgotten Lafayette and Rochambeau, and the thousands of noble Frenchmen who fought against the armies of a German King of England that we might be free?

The monarchial tyranny which the American Colonies threw off in 1776 was "Made in Germany." England, herself, has been a

victim of Teutonic rulers. The monarchial system of Europe is to-day a King Trust "Made in Germany."

It was Frederick II. of Hesse-Cassel, who sent over to this country 22,000 hireling German soldiers to shoot down the American patriots of 1776, who with a bravery which reminds us of the Belgians of to-day were fighting that their country should be free.

Why is America neutral? It is the Government not the people of America which is neutral in this world crisis. No one believes that either President Wilson or Secretary Bryan, with their ancestry, patriotism, experience, and political faith are in their hearts any more neutral than the average American.

AMERICA'S OBLIGATION TO ENGLAND.

The Declaration of Independence was the product of the heart and brain of an Englishman, Thomas Paine, and all the fathers of this Republic were of British ancestry.

There are some England-haters in this country to whom I have a message. I want to remind them that England has given to the people of America their language, literature, law, and political ideals. The English were not the discoverers or even the first settlers in the United States; they have formed only a small minority of the vast army of immigrants which has made this Republic its home, but nevertheless we are a nation established and doing business largely on English patterns.

Edward Everett, United States Senator, Governor of Massachusetts, and President of Harvard University, speaking of the obligations of America to England said in a speech delivered ninety years ago:

"What citizen of our republic does not feel, what reflecting American does not acknowledge, the incalculable advantages derived to this land out of the deep fountains of civil, intellectual, and moral truth, from which we have drawn in England? What American does not feel proud that his fathers were the countrymen of Bacon, of Newton, and of Locke? Who does not know that, while every pulse of civil liberty in the heart of the British empire beat warm and full in the bosom of our ancestors, the sobriety, the firmness, and the dignity, with which the cause of free principles struggled into existence here, constantly found encouragement and countenance from the friends of liberty there?

"Who does not remember that, when the pilgrims went over the sea, the prayers of the faithful British confessors, in all the

quarters of their dispersion, went over with them, while their aching eyes were strained till the star of hope should go up in the western skies? And who will ever forget that, in that eventful struggle which severed these youthful republics from the British crown, there was not heard, throughout our continent in arms, a voice which spoke louder for the rights of America, than that of Burke or of Chatham within the walls of the British parliament and at the foot of the British throne?"

GERMAN, AUSTRIAN AND TURKISH THEORIES OF GOVERNMENT.

What principle of democracy or political economy has Germany Austria, or Turkey taught us? What does any of these countries know of the idea, imported from England and France, that all government derives its just power from the consent of the governed? All such questions are correctly answered when we realize that the American people have nothing in common with German, Austrian, or Turkish theories of government. England-haters should note that those two bulwarks of our liberty, trial by jury, and the writ of habeas corpus are English institutions. From the United States Supreme Court at Washington, to the Night Magistrate's Court in Manhattan, our jurisprudence follows English models and precedents. No lawyer in any part of the United States would think of quoting a German, Austrian or Turkish legal precedent. The English way of thinking, speaking, writing and living has outlived all other ways in this country by the inevitable operation of the law of the survival of the fittest.

The history of the United States is mainly a record of the wisdom, patriotism and efficiency of men and women whose ancestors were kinsmen by blood to the Glorious Allies now fighting for freedom and democracy.

IS ENGLAND'S DIFFICULTY IRELAND'S OPPORTUNITY?

There are a few "Irish-Americans," who have never been nearer in geography and sympathy to Ireland than Hoboken, New Jersey, who are pro-German today on the theory that England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity. These irreconcilables do not represent Ireland. While a handful of them attend German rallies and look stupid when "Die Wacht am Rhein" is sung, real Irishmen, are giving their lives and blood to save Great Britain and Ireland from the alien enemy.

To-day Ireland, Protestant and Catholic is a unit for the Allies. Every Irishman of consequence, including John Redmond, Sir Edward Carson, T. P. O'Connor, and Timothy Healey are earnestly on the side of freedom and right.

It must need little argument to prove that the great mass of men of Irish birth, who live in Ireland understand the conditions, needs, aims and destiny of Ireland better than a few "Irish-Americans" whose only rule of faith is to hate England.

Richard Lalor Sheil of Waterford, Ireland, addressing the House of Commons nearly a century ago said: "The blood of England, Scotland and of Ireland, flowed in the same stream, and drenched the same field. When the chill morning dawned their dead lay cold and stark together—in the same deep pit their bodies were deposited—the green corn of spring is now breaking from their commingled dust—the dew falls from heaven upon their union in the grave. Partakers in every peril—in the glory shall we not be permitted to participate; and shall we be told, as a requital, that we are estranged from the noble country for whose salvation our life-blood was poured out?"

There are thousands of Irishmen, whose patriotism and wisdom no one assails, who are convinced that it is not only a duty, but a high privilege, for the sons of Erin to fight shoulder to shoulder with their English, Scottish and French brothers against the alien foe, the brutal Sassenach, whose recent invasion and destruction of Belgium shows the whole world what Ireland might expect if German criminal militarism is successful.

How can America be neutral when her sister and ancient ally, republican France is fighting a foe seeking to destroy French nationality? We have not forgotten the noble Lafayette who as a youth of nineteen years came to America to fight for our independence, without pay, as a volunteer? If Washington and Lafayette are again together, this time in the Land beyond Death, how they must watch with anxious hearts the invasion by the modern Hun of beautiful France.

WE CANNOT AFFORD GERMAN VICTORY.

The United States cannot afford to continue even officially neutral in the present War. This country has been a land of peace and prosperity; a land offering an asylum to the oppressed of all other lands; it cannot afford for its own sake to allow Germany, Austria or Turkey to destroy democratic governments and institutions.

If Germany won it would become the ruling power of Europe and its triumphant militarism would be a menace to this country. As a matter of national security, in order to insure ourselves against great howitzers and bomb-dropping Zeppelins we would be obliged to maintain enormous standing military, naval and aerial establishments.

DEMOCRACY IS IN PERIL.

Germany has considered its treaty with Belgium as a "scrap of paper," how would it treat the Monroe Doctrine?

In a controversy with a Germany ruling Europe, what would be the fate of the United States unless we rivalled German militarism with American militarism? If Germany wins we would be obliged to fetter our free citizens with the chains of compulsory military service. Why? Because a power which did not hesitate to invade and devastate brave little Belgium, which as Theodore Roosevelt says, attempted it no harm, would need constant watching.

America cannot afford to be neutral even on selfish grounds. However, the people of America are not by nature selfish. No other country in history has shown so much useful sympathy for the weak and oppressed. We went to war with Spain not because we hated that country or its people, but because of our sympathy for the people of Cuba. We may be obliged to join the allies in their War against Germany, Austria and Turkey, not because we hate Germans, Austrians or Turks, but because this nation "conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal," stands for the ideal that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish, from the earth."

NO GRIEVANCE AGAINST THE GERMAN PEOPLE.

Let it be understood here that I have no hatred or dislike for the people of Germany. I know the country and its language better than do most American citizens. I have been edified and entertained by the works of its great men including those of Goethe, who wished that "Germans could be made over on the models of Englishmen." I also admire the German historian Mommsen who uttered the following warning to his fellow countrymen: "Have a care gentlemen, lest in this state, which has been at once a power in intelligence, the intelligence should vanish, and nothing but the pure military state should remain."

Of course I do not accept German "culture" at the exorbitant

price placed upon it by those who are at present offering it as an excuse for murder and spoliation, but the German people minus Kaiserism are a very decent lot of humans. The German I have met in Germany and the United States is far from being superhuman, but he is fairly intelligent and useful citizen.

The spiritual life of a nation is of more importance than its culture, and spiritually Germany is an extinct volcano.

THE PAN-GERMAN MOVEMENT.

In Harper's Weekly we are told by Mr. Norman Hapgood that, "Thirty years ago a German-American was an American. When he left Germany he left it almost altogether. He assimilated more rapidly than any other American. Under the Pan-German propaganda he has changed his civic attitude." The same is true of the German-Englishman. Twenty-five years ago he went to England to make that country his home; to establish a homestead, and raise up his children as loyal Englishmen and Englishwomen. Of late the German in London or Liverpool has considered his residence in England simply a matter of temporary business necessity. "Germany above all!" is the motto of Pan-Germanism.

When on August 4th, 1914, England declared war against Germany, not one of the hundred thousand German residents of Great Britain offered or was willing to fight for the land of their adoption. It made no difference whether they were naturalized Britons, had English wives or children, or had lived almost all their lives under the Union Jack, their attitude was definitely expressed by the three words, "Germany above all!"

If the United States ever goes to war with Germany, German-Americans will consider their naturalization certificates as scraps of paper, and fight for the Kaiser.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

Mr. Hapgood points out to us that a warlike challenge from Germany, to the Monroe Doctrine is the most serious among our possible foreign difficulties. In this connection we must remember two important facts, the first being that the maintenance of the Monroe Doctrine is this country's principal safeguard against foreign interference and aggression, and second, that Germany does not accept the Monroe Doctrine as being even of the value of a scrap of paper.

The Monroe Doctrine is the formulation of the sentiment that America is for Americans. It was declared by the fifth president of the United States in his seventh annual message, on December 2d, 1813. The occasion of proclaiming this doctrine was the rumored intervention of the Holy Alliance to aid Spain in the reconquest of her American colonies. Although the Monroe Doctrine was originated by President Monroe, it has received larger and more definite form during later administrations. It means to-day that the United States of America will not permit any power of the Eastern Hemispere to acquire new territorial possessions or sovereignty, or increase its present holdings or jurisdiction in any part of the Western Hemisphere. The maintenance of this necessary American doctrine or policy brought friction between this country and Great Britain over Venezuela during the administration of President Cleveland, and it would soon furnish a cause for war between colony-hungry Germany and the United States if the Kaiser wins his present criminal enterprise. In such a war the German-American would clean his rifle with his certificate of American naturalization, and fight for Germany.

We are obliged to Count von Bernstoff, the German Ambassador, for bringing the matter home to us in his warning of October 25th, that Germany considers it within her rights to invade Canada. He and Dr. Dernburg argue that such an invasion would not be a violation of the Monroe Doctrine. Kaiser William, Count von Bernstoff and Dr. Dernburg had better take notice that the people of these United States do not take definitions or constructions of the Monroe Doctrine "Made in Germany."

WHY IS ENGLAND ALLIED WITH RUSSIA?

Every little while we are reminded that democratic England and republican France are allied with Russia against Germany. "Does this make for culture and civilization?" asks the Kaiserite. In view of German's definition of "culture" as a combination of zeppelins, howitzers, and floating mines, we suppose it does not, but the alliance of England and France and Russia is certainly on the side of progress, peace, and civilization.

A nation represented by Pushkin, Turgeneff and Tolstoy, in literature; by Kramskoy, Verestchagin and Glinka, in art; and by Metchnikoff, Pavloff and Mendeleiff in science, can afford to have its culture compared with that of any other modern community.

Ideals count for more than ideas in a nation's development.

The ideals of Russia are leading her slowly but surely to the highest plane of civilized culture.

There are various forms of culture, and some of them are not signs of civilization. The burglar who pursues his trade scientifically, and the murderer who studies chemistry so as to speedily dispose of his victim, are both men of culture, but such culture is not needed in Russia, or anywhere else. A book like that of "The Next War" by General von Bernhardi would not be accepted in Russia as proof of its author's "culture," it would rather prove to the Russians that General von Bernhardi is a human bloodhound.

Some years ago a certain monarch proposed a general disarmament of the European powers. Was it Kaiser William who suggested this peace measure? No, it was the present Czar of Russia. To-day a certain emperor has a plan to organize for peace purposes the United States of Europe. Is it Emperor William of Germany? No, it is the Czar of Russia who has again proven his high motives and ideals.

THE UNSPEAKABLE TURK.

In attacking Russians for their lack of culture the Germans say nothing of the unspeakable Turk, who has long been Germany's secret and underhand ally.

Upon what theory of culture or civilization can Germany justify its dragging of the "Sick Man of Europe" into this conflict? The whole record of Germany's dealings and alliance with Turkey in the present world crisis has been criminal and underhand. What American ever believed that the "sale" of the German warships, Goeben and Breslau, to Turkey was made in good faith? It is plain that driven by its war culture into desperate difficulties, Germany has deliberately endangered the whole fabric of Christian civilization by inducing Turkey to join the Kaiser in his mad war.

THE ALLEGED "YELLOW PERIL."

Germany, which after much plotting and chicanery, has incited Turkey, the relentless enemy of our civilization to assist in its present criminal warfare, finds fault with England for accepting the aid of the Japanese. Of course the explanation that Japan is, by solemn contract, made before the war, the ally of England in the Far East, is ignored by the nation which esteems international contracts and treaties as "mere scraps of paper," which may be violated through military necessity.

Many Englishmen and Americans do not like the color of the skin of a Japanese, or the way he wears his eyes, but nevertheless the people of Japan are entitled to justice and respect. Much of the dislike between Americans and Japanese is the work of jingoes who have stirred up racial animosities for sinister and selfish purposes.

In his book on "Japan To-day and To-morrow," Dr. Hamilton Wright Mabie, tells us, it is conceivable that Japan understands America better than America understands Japan. "She has certainly," says Dr. Mabie, "had abundant demonstration of the intolerant and one would suppose quite intolerable arrogance of Western 'Superiority.' Our Yellow Peril can never cut so deep into our national consciousness as her White Peril has cut into hers."

Russia, who found Japan a brilliant and mighty adversary, is a witness to the humanity and courtliness of Japanese soldiers. In the Russo-Japanese War the Japanese by their exceptional kindly and considerate treatment of prisoners earned their right to be accepted as a modern and civilized people.

The proportion of illiterancy to-day is higher in Boston, Massachusetts than in Tokyo, Japan. An eminent German teacher declares that "For quick receptiveness, and rapid, thorough assimilation of mental food, the Japanese are unparalled."

Several years ago when I was working in the British Museum editing a book on the comparative marriage and divorce laws of the world, I was surprised to find that the best treatise on the German Code of 1900, was by a Japanese. Surely England needs to offer no apology for the mental prowess of Japan.

In his book, "Japan To-day," Professor Scherer says: "If there is one characteristic that impressed me more than any other, it is the wonderful gentleness of this race." These are the brilliant, heroic, and gentle people whose alliance with the English is a mutual honor.

NO NATION HAS A MONOPOLY OF CULTURE.

It is a mistake for the Germans, or any other people, to imagine that they have a monopoly of culture, civilization, or any other special advantage enjoyed by us poor humans. Every nation can justly boast of a galaxy of good, wise, and talented men and women. It is a greater mistake for the Germans to attempt to inject their particular brand of "culture" into the Belgians by howitzers, or to attempt to drop it in bomb capsules from Zeppelins

upon the French who are fully as cultivated as any other race in Europe. At any rate Americans do not approve of culture by howitzers.

I was in France the summer just passed, when the dreadful cloud of the war appeared on the horizon of the world politics. I know Frenchmen did not expect or desire war with any nation. The people of our beautiful sister Republic were too busy minding their own business to desire any form of aggression upon their neighbors in Europe; too much occupied with the arts of peace to have any leisure for that horrible method of wholesale murder Germans call the "science of war." Everyone prayed and hoped that the threatening cloud would pass, but suddenly the storm burst in all its fury, and human beings, supposed to be civilized, began a tremendous slaughter of each other.

Throughout all this dreadful affair one question has been uppermost in the minds of Americans: "Who is responsible for the War?"

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WAR?

The German Kaiser pretends to piety, and poses as an amateur theologian, so I have a message for him. It is contained in the 7th verse of the Eighteenth Chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, and reads: "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!"

The people of America are convinced that the present war is an offence against God and mankind. After a study of the various records submitted by the parties at war, we are of the opinion that because of the peculiar form of "culture" at present dominant in Germany this war was inevitable; but if the war came by the attitude and conduct of one man above all others on earth, the evidence points out Kaiser William as the guilty one.

BELGIUM THE GLORIOUS.

The greatest offence in modern history was the ruthless and savage devastation of splendid little Belgium by the German army to suit the Kaiser's "military necessities."

Belgium is small in geography but great in heart and spirit. The Belgians are as modest as they are brave, and that is why so little was known of them by the average American before the present war. They have not tired the ears of other nationalities by singing their own praises in extravagant songs, or by reciting their

supposed virtues in grandiloquent verse. They are a brave race who live in their deeds.

In the midst of all the awful ruin and carnage caused by "cultured" Germany's howitzers, one human being stands forth as a radiant figure, and that is the noble and princely patriot, who has been described as a "ruler without a country," Albert, the King of the Belgians. This is the king who on August 3d, of this year sent the following telegram to George V. of England:

"Remembering the numerous proofs of your Majesty's friendship and that of your predecessors, and the friendly attitude of England in 1870, and the proof of friendship she has just given us again. I make a supreme appeal to the diplomatic intervention of your Majesty's Government to safeguard the integrity of Belgium."

Belgium only asked to be left alone and independent.

When Belgium appealed to England's King the reason which moved England to intervene is best set forth in the following quotation from a speech by Mr. Gladstone:

"We have an interest in the independence of Belgium, which is wider than that which we may have in the literal operation of the guarantee. It is found in the answer to the question whether, under the circumstances of the case, this country, endowed as it is with influence and power, would quietly stand by and witness the perpetration of the direst crime that ever stained the pages of history, and thus become participators in the sin."

And yet Germany's professors of brutality, whose chief university is the Krupp gun factory, like parrots repeat Napoleon's phrase, "Perfidious Albion!"

I know not what alteration in the map of Europe may be the result of the present war, but if the Allies consent to any peace which fails to give justice and reparation to glorious little Belgium I shall despair for the cause of civilization.

WERE THE BELGIANS FOOLISH?

When Germany's attention is called to its barbarous invasion of Belgium; its wanton destruction of historic buildings and monuments in that country; its slaughter and mutilation of non-combatants; and the criminal extortion of immense sums of money from the helpless burghers of Belgian cities, what is its defense? Simply this: The Belgians were "foolish" to oppose the German advance, as it would have been "easier" for them to have accepted "compensation" and permitted the invasion.

The argument of "ease" and "compensation" appealed no more to King Albert and his people in 1914 than it appealed to George Washington and the American Colonists in 1776. Posterity will bless the Belgians for refusing to sell their birthright for a mess of German pottage.

The German mind obsessed with its misdirected culture cannot understand that the Belgians and all other normal humans view the present war as a gigantic clash of ideals. The German ideal is to dominate by brute force all countries weaker in military power, while the ideal of truly civilized communities is to dwell in peace, respecting the right of all other people, and giving full faith to international treaties and contracts.

GERMANY IS AN OUTLAW NATION.

The man who breaks into my house, kills a member of my family, and robs me of my money, is a burglar, a murderer, and a thief; and the criminality of such acts is none the less because they are perpetrated by a whole nation, on a tremendous scale, and against an entire community. Even the "culture" of a criminal, or of a band of criminals, is not a sufficient excuse for crime. The recent doings of Germany in Belgium class it as an outlaw among the nations of the earth.

The American people have never had much doubt as to the guilt of Germany and its Kaiser; and thank God there is enough of His love in the hearts of our citizens to make them offer to the outraged Belgians their deepest affection and sympathy.

GERMANY OPPOSED TO PEACE.

During the past fifty years there have developed among civilized nations a great movement to bring about the abolition of war. So convincing have been the arguments of English, American, French and Russian publicists showing the savagery and degradation of war, that it seemed to most of us that such a bloody conflict as that now disgracing Europe, was no longer a possibility among civilized and rational humans. In our optimism, however, we overlooked Germany.

The devoted men and woman of the International Peace Society, the Carnegie Foundation and similar organizations failed to understand that the history, education, and philosophy of Germany are founded on materialism and physical force. They forgot that

religion, which Matthew Arnold beautifully defined as "the power outside ourselves which makes for righteousness," is considered a weakness by Teutonic professors. And so in spite of all our hopes the great war is here.

Nevertheless, those of us who consider war simply as murder on a huge scale still believe that every form of warfare among humans is an anachronism, and will be abolished. We accept the teaching of the Prince of Peace, who said: "All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." We have not lost faith in God, whose Name is so often used blasphemously by the new Attila, Kaiser William. We also hope that while the present war is a conflagration which can only be quenched by the blood of millions of the fellow-countrymen of the mad fiend who set the torch, one lasting benefit to humanity may come out of it, and that is the annihilation of war itself.

Such a world-peace, as the really civilized and cultured people of all lands are hoping for, can only come after the complete destruction of German militarism. Germany is the disturber of international peace, and the sooner Americans recognize that fact the better for America.

Are we shocked at Germany's methods and machinery in the killing of innocent neutrals like the Belgians? Then note that the same barbarism and the same Krupp guns would be hurled at us if German "military necessity" called for such action. There is no sentimentalism in Prussian statesmanship; no turning aside because of "decent respect to the opinions of mankind."

Mr. Arthur Moore warns us that if Germany wins in the present war, she could disarm the rest of Europe as the first move towards world domination. He says: "With a disarmed Europe Germany could collect ample shipping to carry across the Atlantic an overwhelming force, and could, in spite of us, throw a great army upon our coasts, or a number of great cities. Europe disarmed could no more help us than the natives of Central Africa could."

A victorious German army could easier than the confident patriotism of most Americans think possible, take New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Chicago. It may surprise some of our citizens to learn that the German General Staff has already prepared exhaustive plans and blue prints for the taking of these American cities, whenever German "culture" and "military necessity" call for their capture."

The present war was begun by the Kaiser with more in view

than the crushing of the Republic of France, and the breaking up of the British Empire. The Madman of Potsdam believes he is God-anointed and appointed, to establish a new German-Roman Empire. To accomplish this he must first impose on Europe the *régime* of a military feudalism. If he succeeds in Europe, our turn comes next! General Leonard A. Wood, commanding the Department of the East of the United States Army, in an impressive message to the American people, which appeared in the New York Sun, on Sunday, November 15th of this year, shows conclusively how poorly prepared their country is to oppose German invasion.

In short, America is not, and cannot be, neutral in the present war, because we believe there are spiritual qualities in human life the cultivation of which is more desirable than mere material conquests. Because we hold with Matthew Arnold, that "culture looks beyond machinery, culture hates hatred, culture has one great passion, the passion for sweetness and light."

POSTSCRIPTUM.

George Bernard Shaw's article on the war, which was printed recently in the New York Times, has no other motive than to advertise its over-advertised author, but it may unsettle the minds of some people who are unfamiliar with the methods of G. B. S.

The clown is often the best man in a circus, but he is sadly out of place in the forum of world politics. George Bernard Shaw has managed to keep his literary productions before a patient public by posing as a literary clown, but while such clownishness is harmless as a measure to sell light literature, it is not appropriate in discussing such an appalling tragedy as the present war.

Shaw, whose surname is no more Hibernian than his very English first name, George, finds it necessary to tell the world every now and then that he is really an Irishman, and in his latest frivolous article he pretends to write from an Irish viewpoint. This "fellow of infinite jest," likes a joke so well that even his pretension to be Irish must be accepted with caution.

I would like to tell Mr. Shaw, that there are many subjects in this world upon which he might, with good taste, exercise his alleged wit and humor, but the dreadful war, which is hourly destroying the best and bravest of human beings in Europe, is not one of them.

There is only one feature of Shaw's essay calling for an answer, and that is his untrue assertion that England has been planning and preparing for the war. If the purpose of a nation to wage war is shown by its preparedness, then it is manifest that Germany has planned the war for over forty years past. Any school boy who reads the newspapers can tell Mr. Shaw that Germany has shown itself so thoroughly prepared for the war that it seemed, as a newspaper correspondent recently wrote, that in August last there were but three properly organized institutions on earth, namely the Catholic Church, the Standard Oil Company, and the German Army.

The unpreparedness of England for war last August was woefully apparent to everyone.

That England did not desire war is evident from the efforts and expressions of Sir Edward Grey. In the House of Commons on August 3d—one day before England declared war on Germany, the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs said: "First of all let me say, very shortly, that we have conscientiously worked with a single mind for peace. The House may be satisfied on that point. We have always done it. During these last years, so far as His Majesty's Government are concerned, we would have no difficulty in proving that we have done so. Throughout the Balkan crisis, by general admission, we worked for peace. The co-operation of the Great Powers of Europe was successful in working for peace in the Balkan crisis. It is true that some of the Powers had great difficulty in adjusting their points of view. It took much time and labor and discussion before they could settle their differences, but peace was secured, because peace was their main object, and they were willing to give time and trouble rather than accentuate differences rapidly.

"In the present crisis it has not been possible to secure the peace of Europe, because there has been little time, and there has been a disposition—at any rate in some quarters on which I will not dwell—to force things rapidly to an issue, at any rate to the great risk of peace.

"*We shall publish papers as soon as we can, regarding what took place last week when we were working for peace; and when those papers are published I have no doubt that to every human being they will make it clear how strenuous and genuine, and whole-hearted our efforts for peace were, and that they will enable people to form their own judgment as to what forces were at work which operated against peace.*"

Here we have Sir Edward Grey against G. B. Shaw; facts against fiction.

I cannot close without appealing to every right-minded American man or woman, who reads this pamphlet, to do something this coming Christmastide to help the heroic and suffering people of Belgium. This Christmas will be a sad one for this old world of ours, but we can make it more like the happy Christmases of the past by showing the Christ spirit towards the helpless men, women, and children of that splendid little country which is suffering so much, that civilization and democracy may endure in Europe.

There are many ways of proving our Christianity this Christmas, but I know of none so practical and useful, as that of sending through any of the committees organized in this country, a Christmas present of money, food or clothing for our friends the Belgians. Such committees can easily be found by consulting the daily newspapers of our large cities.

I am also informed that the Salvation Army, one of the most beneficent institutions now in existence, is also doing its share in relieving the sufferings of the poor people in Belgium and Northern France.

Remember the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians, wherein he said: "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."

H. R.

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